[Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The member is referred to G. O. Dis. No. 1197 of 22/Revenue, dated the 2nd November, 1922, published in the Government Gazette dated the 7th November, 1922. The other recommendations of the Board are receiving the attention of Government.

State Bank.

118. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state at what stage of consideration the idea of opening a State Bank for Travancore stands?

MR. K. GEORGE: The scheme relating to a State-aided Bank which is an important one deserves careful consideration and is engaging the attention of Government.

Supply and Price of Salt.

119. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to inform the Council why Bombay salt and local salt are not supplied to the Quilon Depôt?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that people prefer Bombay salt to Tinnevelly salt for domestic use and that the prices of Bombay salt and local salt at Quilon are very high?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to give a statement of the prices of Bombay salt and Tinnevelly salt at the places whence they are brought, as also the cost of importation of these two kinds of salt?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state why Bombay salt is not sent out of the Alwaye Circle from the Munambam Depôt?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to inform the Council whether the Tinnevelly salt issued from the Quilon Depôt agrees with the sample produced by the contractor?

(*f*) Will the Government be pleased to state why Bombay salt and Tinnevelly salt are sold in certain proportions and why Bombay salt alone is not sold at the Alleppey Salt Depôt?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) The quantity of local salt manufactured is hardly sufficient to meet the demands of the Trivandrum Division. The quantity of salt required for the Quilon Depôt is therefore imported from Tinnevelly on account of the convenience of transport. As soon as a sufficient quantity of local salt becomes available, it will be transported to Quilon in lieu of Tinnevelly salt.

(*b*) Government are informed that the predilection in favour of Bombay salt is gradually wearing away. Bombay salt is less pure than home or Tinnevelly salt. The retail price of Bombay salt is the same both at Quilon and at Alleppey, *viz.*, 4 chs. per *Edangali*.

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(*c*) The information is not available. The contract prices for delivery for 1097 are:

Bombay salt.

Alleppey. 9 as.-3 9/25 pies per *maund.*

Tinnevelly salt.

Alleppey. 10 as.-7 5/7 pies per *maund.*

Quilon 8 as.-3 pies per *maund.*

(*d*) The Munambam Depot is intended to serve the taluks of the Alwaye Circle and the accommodation there is not sufficient to stock more salt.

(*e*) Generally it is of the same quality as the sample contracted for. In cases where the supply is not quite up to the sample, but is not unfit for consumption, a reduction is made in the contract rates.

(*f*) The two kinds of salt are sold in a fixed proportion in view to the disposal of both the kinds.

MR. M. R MADHAVA VARIAR: With reference to the answer to part (*a*), may I ask if it is not possible to stock Bombay salt at Quilon?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: No.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: Can it not be supplied?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: With a view to increase the supply of local salt, the policy of Government is to restrict the importation of Bombay salt as far as possible, and so, gradually, when the supply of local salt increases, it will be necessary to supply larger and larger quantities of local salt at Quilon. At present, it is not deemed necessary to continue the supply of Bombay salt at Quilon.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: With reference to answer (*b*), why do Government prefer Bombay salt to Tinnevelly or local salt in their advertisement for the supply of salt to the Caste Hindu Hostel and other institutions?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: I am not aware. I shall enquire.

Free Passes for the removal of Timber and Firewood.

120. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that representations have been made on several occasions in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly that the present rules regarding the grant of free passes for the removal of timber and fuel from private lands cause much hardship to the people?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state what their intention is in insisting that a plan and certificate should accompany every application for a free pass for the removal of timber and fuel from registered lands in rural parts, near which there are no Sirkar lands?

(*c*) Has it been brought to the notice of Government that the parties concerned experience much difficulty and incur much loss in getting plans and certificates from the Proverticars?

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